

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE SPECIFIC NAME *DENTIPES* GUÉRIN, 1832, AS PUBLISHED IN THE BINOMEN *ALPHEUS DENTIPES* (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA). Z.N.(S.) 643

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The object of the present application is to protect the currently used name of a well-known species of Caridean shrimps from being displaced by a little-used subjective synonym published sixteen years earlier. The facts are set out below.

2. As I pointed out in a paper on the West African Caridean shrimps (Holthuis, 1951, *Atlantide Rep.* 2 : 71, 72), *Nika variegata* Risso, 1816 (*Hist. nat. Crust. Nice* : 86) is identical with *Alpheus dentipes* Guérin, 1832 (*Exped. sci. Morée, Zool.* 2 : 39). As the name given by Risso to this species was published long before that given by Guérin, the latter is invalid, and the correct name of the species is *Alpheus variegatus* (Risso). This change is, however, undesirable for the reasons given below.

3. After having described the species in 1816 as *Nika variegata*, Risso placed it in 1826 (*Hist. nat. Europ. mérid.* 5 : 78) in the genus *Hippolyte* [Leach], [1814] (which was spelled *Hippolytes* by Risso). Later authors cited the species as *Hippolyte* or *Nika variegata*, but did not recognise its true identity. Coutière, 1899 (*Ann. Sci. nat. Zool.* (8) 9 : 9) thought Risso's species to be identical with *Athanas nitescens* (Leach) and I was of the same opinion in 1947 (*Siboga Exped.* 39(a8) : 24, 25). Risso's description is very poor and his figure is even worse. This has obviously been the reason why the identity of the species was not recognised before 1951.

4. The specific name *dentipes* Guérin has been used for the present species by the majority of authors (at least 55 authors are known to have employed this name) and it is firmly established in carcinological literature. As far as I can ascertain, no other specific name has been used to indicate this species since 1900.

5. This species is currently referred to the genus *Alpheus* Fabricius, 1798. All aspects of the nomenclature of this name were dealt with by the Commission in Opinion 334. The opportunity may be taken, however, to deal with erroneous subsequent spellings of the generic name *Hippolyte* [Leach], [1814] which were overlooked when that generic name was placed on the Official List in Opinion 470.

6. The substitution of the practically unknown and long misunderstood specific name *variegatus* Risso for the well-known specific name *dentipes* Guérin would greatly upset the currently stable nomenclature in this group of animals. For this reason it seems best to suppress the former in order to conserve the latter. I therefore ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy the specific name *variegata* Risso, 1816, as published in the binomen *Nika Variegata* [sic], in order to validate the specific name *dentipes* Guérin, as published in the binomen *Alpheus dentipes*;
- (2) to place the specific name *variegata* Risso, 1816, as published in the binomen *Nika Variegata* [sic], suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *dentipes* Guérin, 1832, as published in the binomen *Alpheus dentipes*, validated under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (4) to place the following erroneous subsequent spellings of *Hippolyte*, [Leach], [1814] on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology : *Hippolyte* Leach, 1815, *Hippolytes* Risso, 1826, *Hippolytus* Guérin, 1832, *Hippolite* J. C. Ross, 1835, *Hippolyta* Burmeister, 1837, *Hippolithe* Brullé, 1839, *Hippolite* Veranyi, 1846 *Hypolyte* Newman, 1898, *Hippolyte* Valdés Ragués, 1909, *Ippolyte* Magri, 1911, *Hippolythe* Borcea, 1934.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE GENERIC NAMES *ISCHNOPODA* STEPHENS, 1835 (Z.N.(S.) 244 AND *BOLITOCHARA* MANNERHEIM, 1831 Z.N.(S.) 243.

(See this volume, pages 69-75.)

By E. C. Pelham-Clinton (*Moredun Institute, Edinburgh*)

I am in complete agreement with all the proposals put forward by Mr. C. E. Tottenham (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 17 : 69-75) for stabilising these genera in accordance with current usage. In the case of *Ischnopoda* Stephens the only possible alternative course would be particularly unfortunate in its effects. The question of the separation of such subgenera as *Acrotoma* Thomson from *Atheta* Thomson is likely to remain a matter of opinion for a very long time : were *Ischnopoda* to replace *Acrotoma* the valid name for the very large genus *Atheta* would depend entirely on this fluctuating opinion—an extremely undesirable situation. Mr. Tottenham's simple solution of this difficulty thus deserves the very strongest support.